SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended by Examiner's amendment to remove the word "a".

35 USC 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, indicating that the specification, while being enabling for processing a gas produced in hazardous waste treatment systems, does not reasonably provide enablement for processing a gas produced in a plasma arc waste treatment system. The Examiner further indicated that the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to carry out the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. The Examiner indicated that the gas produced in Titus et al. (US Patent 5,666,891) (which was incorporated in the present application by reference) contains 2% carbon dioxide, 44% carbon monoxide, 43% hydrogen, 2% methane and the balance being light hydrocarbon and steam. The Examiner then concluded that the exhaust gas from the plasma arc waste treatment system disclosed by Titus would not contain carbon particles and steam. At the same time, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome this restriction.

In response to the Examiner's final rejection, on or about Friday, April 5, 2002, the Applicant and the Examiner conducted a telephone interview to clarify the necessary amendments to place the application in condition for allowance. During the course of this conversation, the Applicant pointed out to the Examiner that the Titus reference states that it was *expected* that the arc furnace of Titus would provide a gas containing about 2% carbon dioxide, 44% carbon monoxide, 43% hydrogen, 2% methane and the balance being light hydrocarbon. (see col. 8, lines 63-67. The Applicant further pointed out that in fact, under certain operating conditions, both carbon particles and steam would also be entrained in the exhaust gas, and directed the Examiner's attention to the paragraph bridging